

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Recombinant erythropoietin is used in a method to prevent ischemic acute renal failure in patients at risk for developing ischemic acute renal failure and to treat fully-developed ischemic acute renal failure. The method is also used to prevent harmful cell apoptosis in renal tubular cells and to stimulate mitogenesis and motogenesis in renal tubular cells. The method comprises the administration of a composition of recombinant erythropoietin in a pharmacologically acceptable carrier to a patient for the purpose of preventing the development of ischemic acute renal failure, treating established acute renal failure, preventing harmful cell apoptosis in renal tubular cells.

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